

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
IN SUPPORT OF HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR  
EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN  
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

March 12, 2013

Senator LeBeau, Representative Perone, and members of the Commerce Committee, I am Michele Millham and I am writing in support of HB 5460 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODEL PLAN FOR EMERGING BIOSCIENCE AND PHARMACEUTICAL BUSINESSES IN SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT. Since 1997 I have lived in Gales Ferry and, until recently, I was employed as a molecular biologist by Pfizer in Groton. I am one of the lucky scientists in southeastern Connecticut to find similar employment in Connecticut after a round of layoffs at Pfizer. I am now employed by Ion Torrent by Life Technologies in Guilford.

There are many reasons to support this bill, but one of the biggest in my eyes is the opportunity to draw on the large pool of talented scientists that already exists in the southeastern part of our state. Many of my former colleagues are unemployed, underemployed, or have taken positions in neighboring states. This has entailed relocating families, enduring weekday separations due to long commutes, or living away during the work week. We have many amazingly talented people in southeastern Connecticut, yet we have seen no benefit from the investment made by the state in the Jackson Laboratory initiative in the Hartford region. Not only should we build new infrastructure such as the Jackson Labs, but we should also capitalize on existing talent and opportunities in the southeastern part of our state and invest in the scientific future of our population.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michele Millham  
18 Whippoorwill Drive  
Gales Ferry, CT